

Application No. 10/042,126

-6-

REMARKSStatus of claims

Claims 1-20 remain in this application. Claims 1, 4 and 19 are currently being amended.

The Examiner's assistance in connection with the interview conducted on June 29, 2004 is gratefully acknowledged. Claims 1, 4 and 19 are being amended to clarify the distinctions relative to Chaleki ('341). The Chaleki reference discloses removal of the "sheath assembly 300" from the handle 68. This teaches away from the presently claimed invention which leaves the endoscope body attached to the handle upon removal of the sheath from the handle. This substantially reduces the cost of the disposable component of the system or reduces the cost or need for resterilization.


CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone call would expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (508) 416-2475.

Respectfully submitted,

BOWDITCH &amp; DEWEY, LLP

By

  
Thomas O. Hoover

Date:

July 23 2004

Registration No.: 32,470

Direct tel.: (508) 416-2475

Telephone: (508) 879-5700

Facsimile: (508) 929-3073

Bowditch & Dewey, LLP  
161 Worcester Road  
P.O. Box 9320  
Framingham, Massachusetts 01701-9320

{J:\CLIENTS\ip\301499\3000\3000-100\F0271510.DOC;1}  
B&D Rev. 8/03